

# OPHTHALMOLOGY @ NJMS

"OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS INTENTIONAL BECAUSE EXCELLENCE REQUIRES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY..."

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FALL 2017

## Suqin Guo, MD

Professor



Being raised by two physician parents in Beijing China, I learned kindness and strength at a very early age. Moreover, the influence of physician parents prompted my becoming an ophthalmologist. I completed my residency here, when Rutgers was UMDNJ and have been on the department faculty since. Working under the outstanding leadership of our department chair, as well as with exceptional colleagues, has further inspired me to be the very best I can be in my profession. Being part of this family "team," as well as training ophthalmology residents and being in charge of educating medical students, makes me proud of my "girl power" (most of my colleagues are men!). In my 19 years on the long academic road, culminating in my promotion to Professor, my chairman in particular has afforded me the greatest support and mentorship, in research, education, and patient care, at every step of the way. I can truly say that what makes our Medical School so strong lies, in such large part, in our unique diversity.

## Neelakshi Bhagat, MD

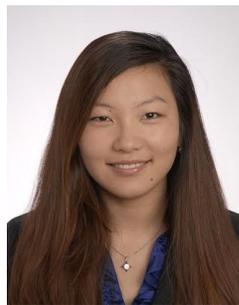
Professor



While growing up in India, I was encouraged by my father to be self-reliant, independent, disciplined, perseverant and industrious. I was extremely lucky to train in this Department of Ophthalmology where I returned after my subspecialty training to work along side colleagues who once were my mentors. Everyone supported and enriched my growth as an educator, researcher, and most importantly, as a physician. Neither my ethnicity nor my gender were ever a hindrance in any of my endeavors, whether they were educational, academic or patient-care related and my department has always supported me in my career aspirations. We each have unique strengths and experiences, the combination of which has created an organization that takes pride in training the next generation of ophthalmologists and in tackling the most challenging ophthalmic problems.

## Tian Xia MD

PGY 3 Resident



Born in China and growing up in cities around the world, I was exposed early on to diverse cultures. I wanted to learn and work in a community where I could help the less fortunate while learning in a multicultural setting. When I was a medical student at NJMS, I was blessed with opportunities to serve the community as a director and inter-professional liaison at the student clinic, a humanism fellow, and a telemedicine eye screening volunteer. As an ophthalmology resident, I am fortunate to learn in this welcoming environment and to be supported by diverse faculty and co-residents. I hope to continue to work alongside influential role models in this residency program and medical school to care for the communities around me.

### About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) is part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, one of the country's largest academic health centers.

NJMS is dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community outreach. Some pertinent facts:

- NJMS has 21 academic departments and many world-renowned scientists and doctors.
- In 2015, NJMS was named #1 in the state for NIH funding.
- NJMS is located in Newark, NJ, where African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise more than 90 percent of the city's population and face many socioeconomic, educational, and health challenges.
- Underrepresented minorities made up 23 percent of the medical school's enrollment in 2017-2018.
- NJMS ranks in the 80th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 85th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2014 AAMC Missions Management Tool.